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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
5 November 1973

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 106
(as of 1500 EST)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are Cairo/^{25X1}
Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

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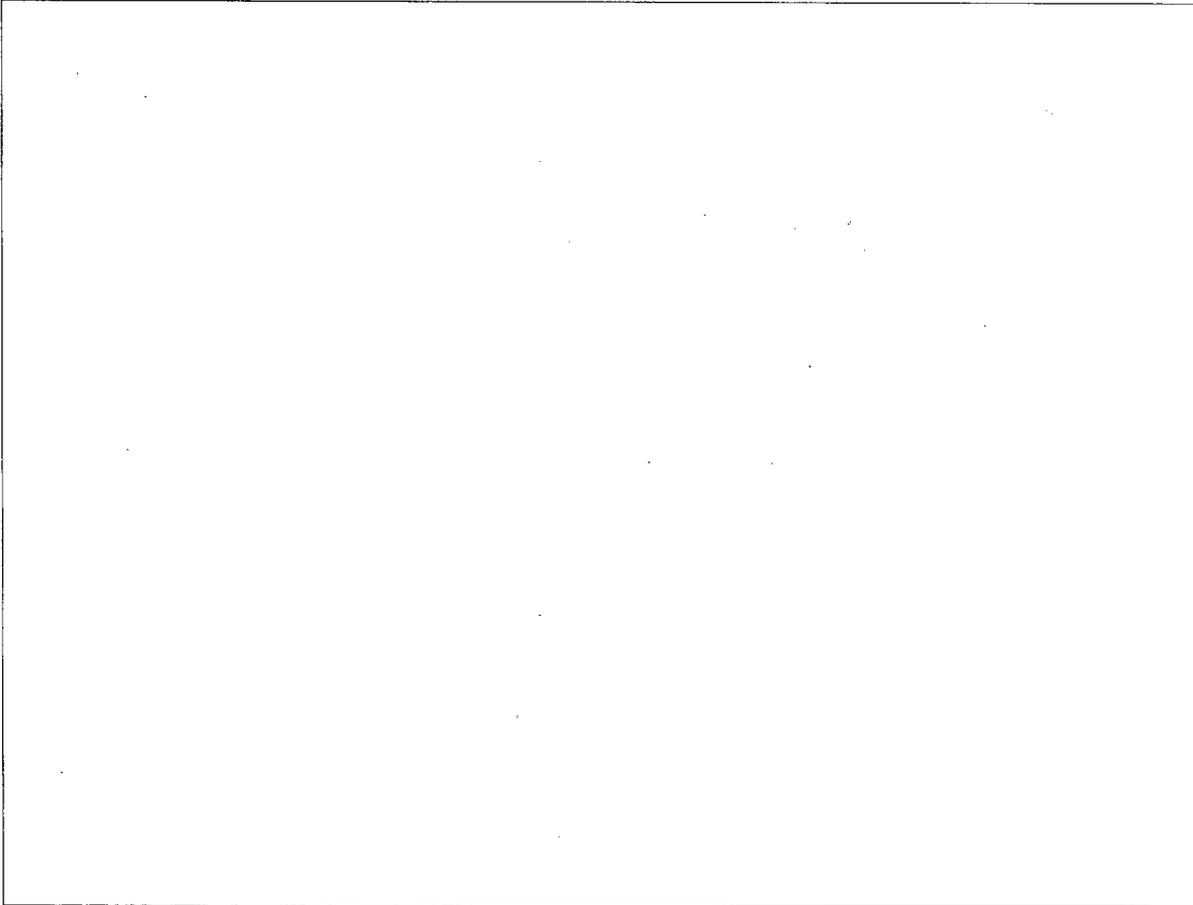
2. According to a senior UN observer, some 15,000 to 20,000 Egyptian troops had been moved to the northern sector of the canal during the past few days.

State Department
review completed

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EGYPTIAN TROOPS
5. According to a senior UN observer, some 15,000 to 20,000 Egyptian troops had been moved from the Cairo area toward Ismailia and the northern Suez Canal in the past few days. He did not know how many Egyptian troops had crossed to the east bank. A UN observer driving from Ismailia to Cairo on 1 November had previously reported three or four Egyptian convoys, each of which was three to six miles long, going toward Ismailia.

6. Press reports from Tel Aviv cite an Israeli military spokesman's claim that Egyptian forces violated the cease-fire four times today, with three of the

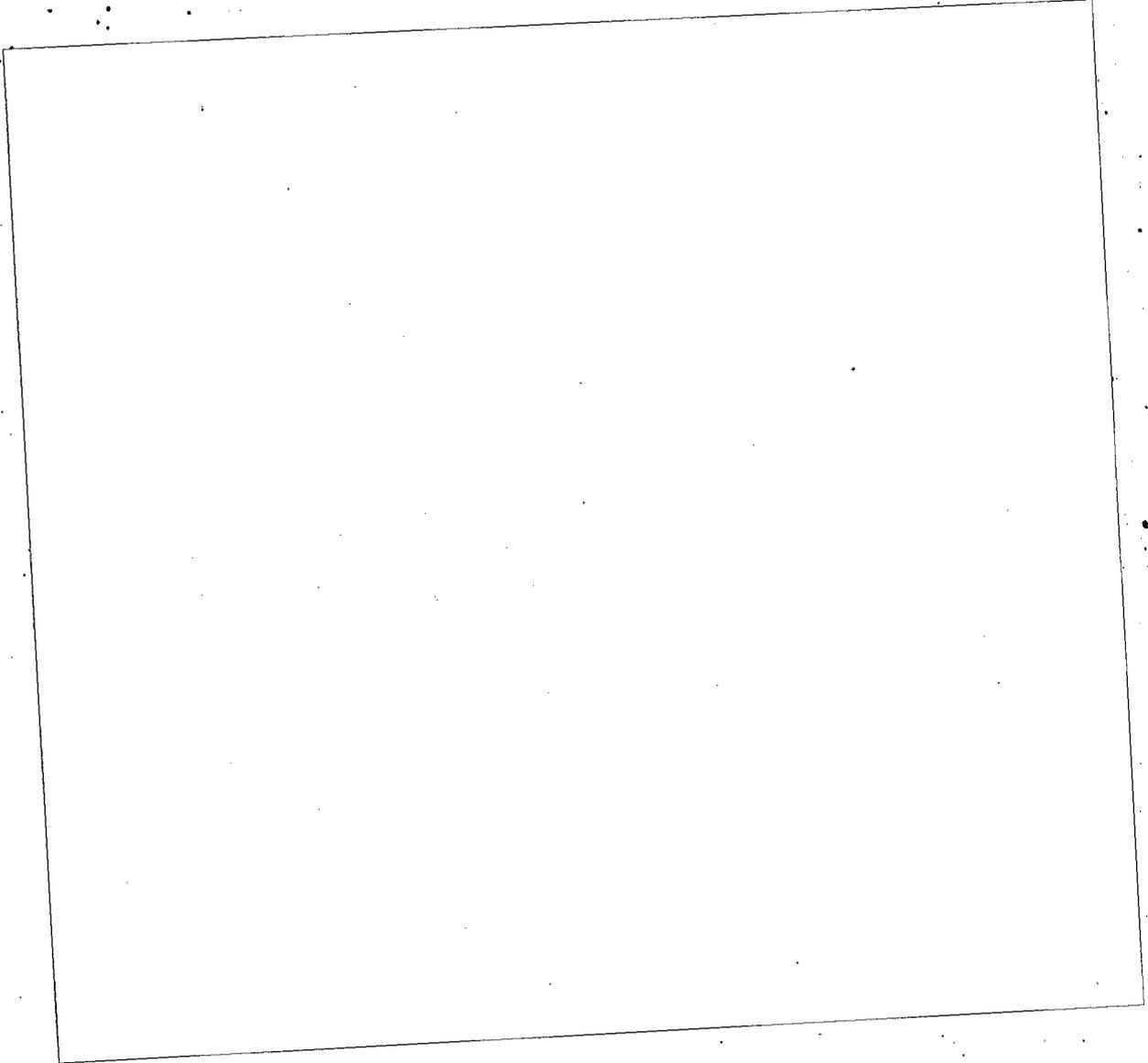
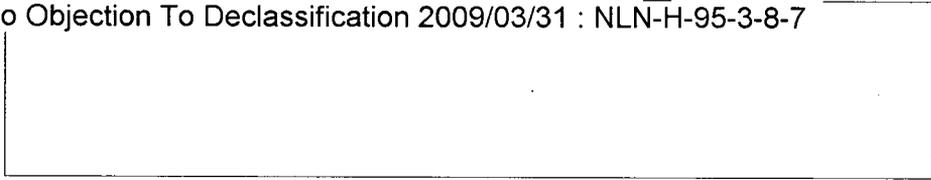


Egyptian attacks taking place in the northern Sinai, where the Second Army is located. One small clash took place between a Third Army patrol and Israeli forces. The attacks in the northern sector included Egyptian tanks and infantry and lasted for six hours before the Egyptians were driven off, according to the spokesman. He said the attacks penetrated Israeli lines initially. This is the first reported fighting between the Egyptian Second Army in the north and Israeli troops since the cease-fire. The spokesman said the attacks were not particularly large or militarily significant. Two Egyptians were reportedly killed and seven taken prisoner.

7. Press reports from Tel Aviv cite concern by Israeli military spokesmen of the possibility of renewed Egyptian attacks, particularly in the northern sector. Defense Minister Dayan said today that Egypt can definitely be expected to renew fighting along the Suez front, which could involve Egypt's Second Army entrenched in the northern sector of the canal. He also warned that the encircled Third Egyptian Army is still a fighting force. An Israeli military spokesman said the Egyptian Second Army clearly appeared to be in a position to launch an attack, but admitted no "special" movements had been detected by the army.

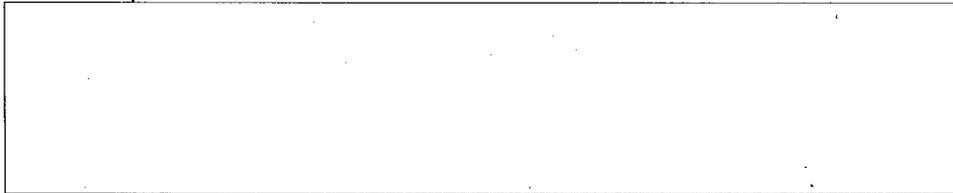
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SYRIAN VIEW OF NEGOTIATIONS

11. According to an AP report, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam said today that his country and Egypt have ruled out direct negotiations with Israel. Speaking at a joint press conference with the Lebanese

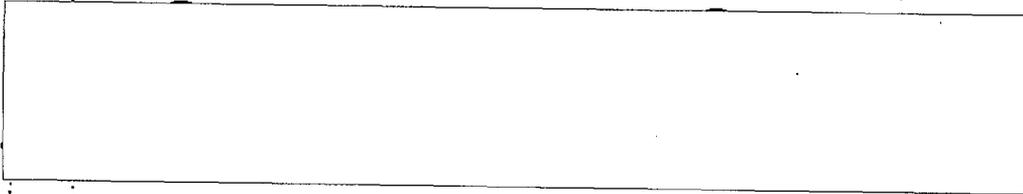


foreign minister, Khaddam also stated that Syria would reject any proposals for a demilitarized zone in the Sinai or the Golan Heights and any discussion of the surrender of Arab territory.

12. When asked about Secretary Kissinger's tour of Arab capitals, Khaddam left open the prospect of a visit to Damascus either by the Secretary or by Assistant Secretary Sisco.

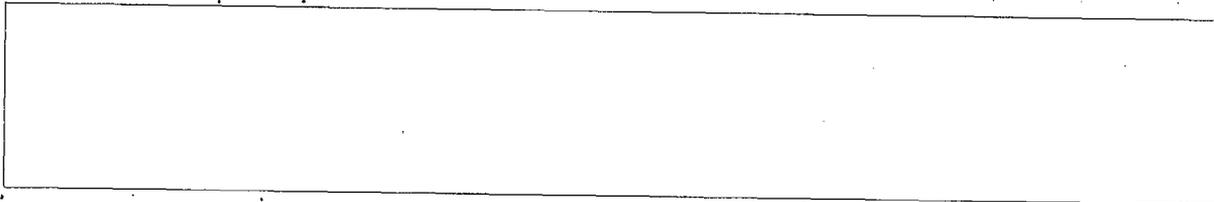
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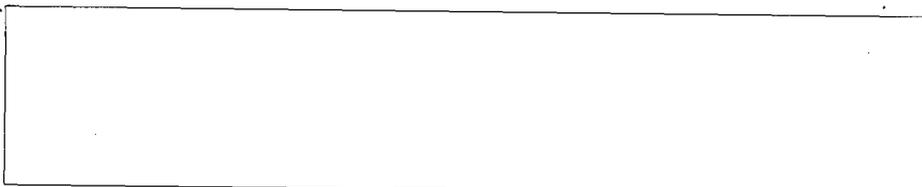
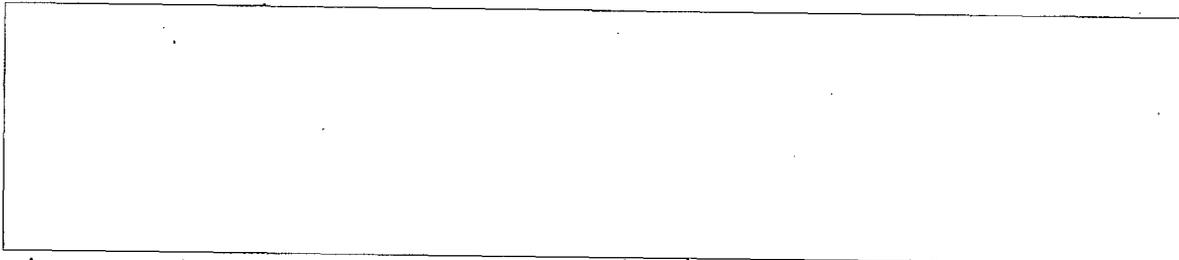


16. US Embassy officials in Amman have expressed their concern that an Arab summit at this stage of the Middle East conflict could seriously constrict the maneuverability of Arab moderates during future peace negotiations. They point out that Arab conferences tend to run toward a consensus and that radical voices have frequently prevailed. Such was the case following the 1967 war at the Khartoum conference, during which moderate elements were railroaded into accepting rigid preconditions for peace negotiations.

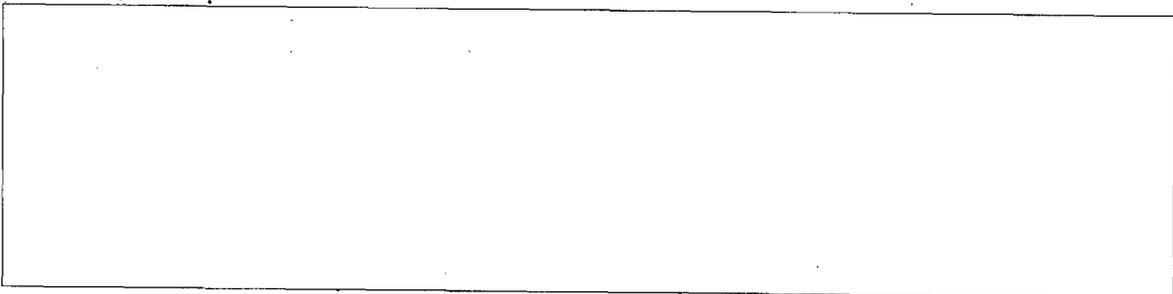
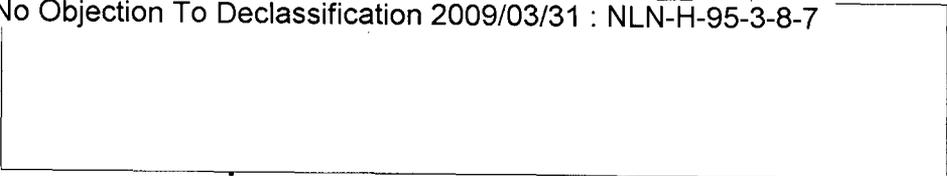
THE FEDAYEEN AND PEACE: STILL NO DECISION

17. Before the 6 October hostilities, fedayeen tactics and strategy were largely motivated toward preventing any sort of peace negotiations. This was based on the rationale that no Arab state, let alone the super powers, would adequately represent Palestinian interests and that only Arab force of arms would recover the lost territory. The military option once again having failed, and with all parties now concentrating on making diplomacy work, particularly the efforts of Secretary Kissinger, the fedayeen now face a dilemma. On the one hand, they will want to avoid becoming attached to peace talks which might fail. At the same time, however, they are under intense pressure by the Arab states and the USSR to adopt a unified and positive line toward this option.

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IRAQ: OUTSIDE THE RING

19. The Iraqs have informed the US Interests Section in Baghdad, in the presence of visiting journalist Rowland Evans, that among other things:

-- the enhanced view of Egypt in Iraq during the first ten days of the war has been dissipated by Cairo's acceptance of the cease-fire.

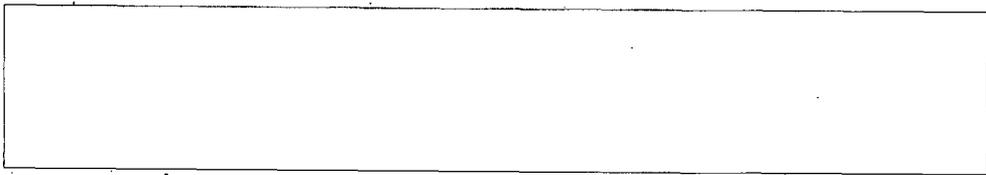
-- Iraq committed itself to the Syrian front so heavily because Sadat had assured it that the recovery of the territory lost in 1967 was a military objective of the war and the war was not simply a way of galvanizing world forces into finding a political settlement.

-- Sadat will not survive unless he regains 90 percent of the occupied territory.

20. Before the 6 October war, Baghdad's position was that of ringside critic of the handling of the Arab-Israeli dispute. If present efforts to find a non-violent solution to the problem fail, which is what the Iraqis expect will happen, they will remind the other Arabs of their continuing total commitment to the military solution and rejection of the cease-fire.

PRISONER EXCHANGE

21. The International Red Cross has had little success in its efforts to attain an exchange of war prisoners' names between Israel and Syria. Although



the organization has emphasized that the obligations of the Geneva Convention do not depend upon reciprocity; Syria yesterday told a visiting Red Cross official that it would not submit a list of names until Israel fully implements the Geneva Convention. Tel Aviv, which has given the Red Cross a list of Syrian prisoners, then released to the organization documents and photographs said to show twelve Israeli soldiers bound and shot by Arab troops before they retreated from the Golan Heights. Israel reportedly has other such materials which it intends to give to international organizations.

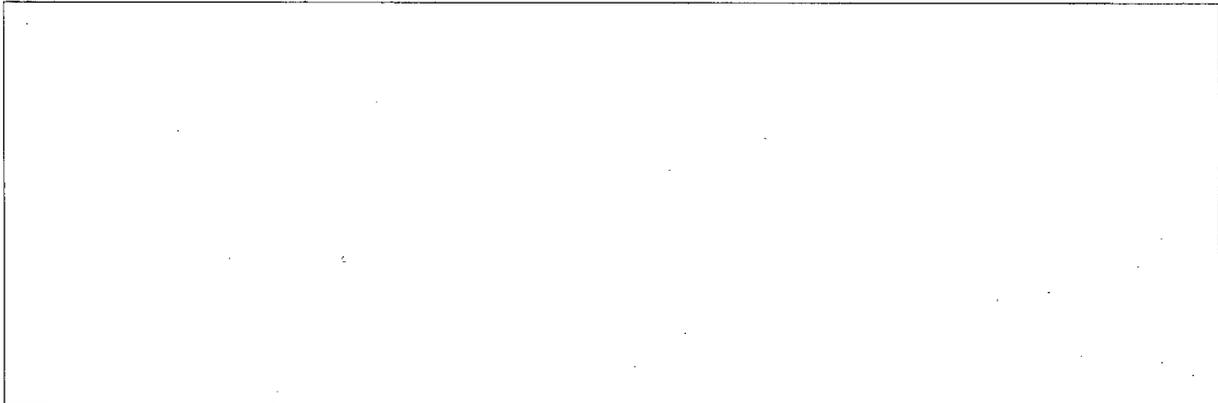
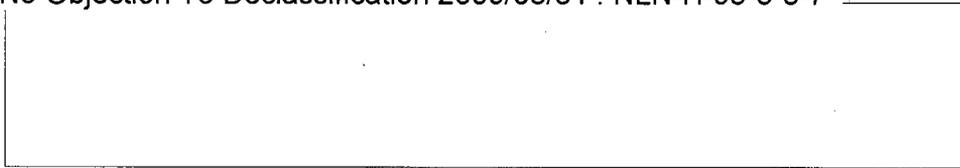
UNEF

22. The expected arrival in Egypt today and tomorrow of more Finnish, Swedish, and Irish "advance" troops should bring the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) to approximately 1,300 men. If the Panamanian contingent is deployed later this week, the force will reach approximately one-quarter of its prescribed 7,000-man size. Canadian logistics support should also begin this week. Poland, the other state to provide logistics support, has sent a delegation of experts to New York to discuss the details of its participation.

23. Indonesia hopes to deploy its 600-man contingent by 15 November and has requested that the US donate needed funds, uniforms, and military equipment including rocket launchers. This request is indicative of the kinds of shortages many of the participants will face in preparing their units. In view of the fact that there are not yet any UN funds available, and that some states still have unpaid bills from earlier peacekeeping operations, they will be hesitant to rely on assurances of reimbursements. Moreover, some of the needed equipment, such as desert uniforms, are not part of their regular military inventories and are available to them only through the developed states.

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25. The Soviets were critical of the US military alert, which they described as "irresponsible" and of alleged US leniency toward Israel. In contrast, the Soviets applauded the "positive view" of the West Europeans on the Middle East and noted the advisability of European countries taking account of their oil needs, as distinguished from US needs.

TUNISIA: KISSINGER VISIT

26. Ambassador Seelye in Tunis believes that President Bourguiba is likely to stress the following points during his meeting with Secretary Kissinger on 6 November:

- the 1947 UN partition plan should serve as the legal point of departure for any lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict;
- the Palestinians must be brought into peace negotiations at the onset;
- unless the Israelis agree to a substantial withdrawal within the near future, the Arabs will be forced to resume hostilities;
- detente with the Soviet Union can be dangerous for the US and Western interests in the Mediterranean region because of the Soviets' imperialistic designs on the area.

